

HMS TRINIDAD

The Ship that torpedoed itself



Crown Colony-Class Cruiser

Built by HM Dockyard Devonport

Launched in 1941

PQ13 - 1942



Thomas Doneghan
S.S. Empire Cowper

The convoy sailed from Loch Ewe in Scotland on 10 March 1942 but turned around and headed for sheltered waters as it was rumoured the German battleship Tirpitz was in the area with the convoy eventually arriving in Reykjavik on the 16 March 1942

The convoy left Reykjavik on the 20 March, but ran into bad weather



Herbert Soper,
HMS Trinidad

The weather was our undoing. When it finally abated we discovered that the convoy was scattered over 180 miles and we started the dreary process of rounding up our ships,



HMS Trinidad, as seen from HMS Fury in the North Atlantic

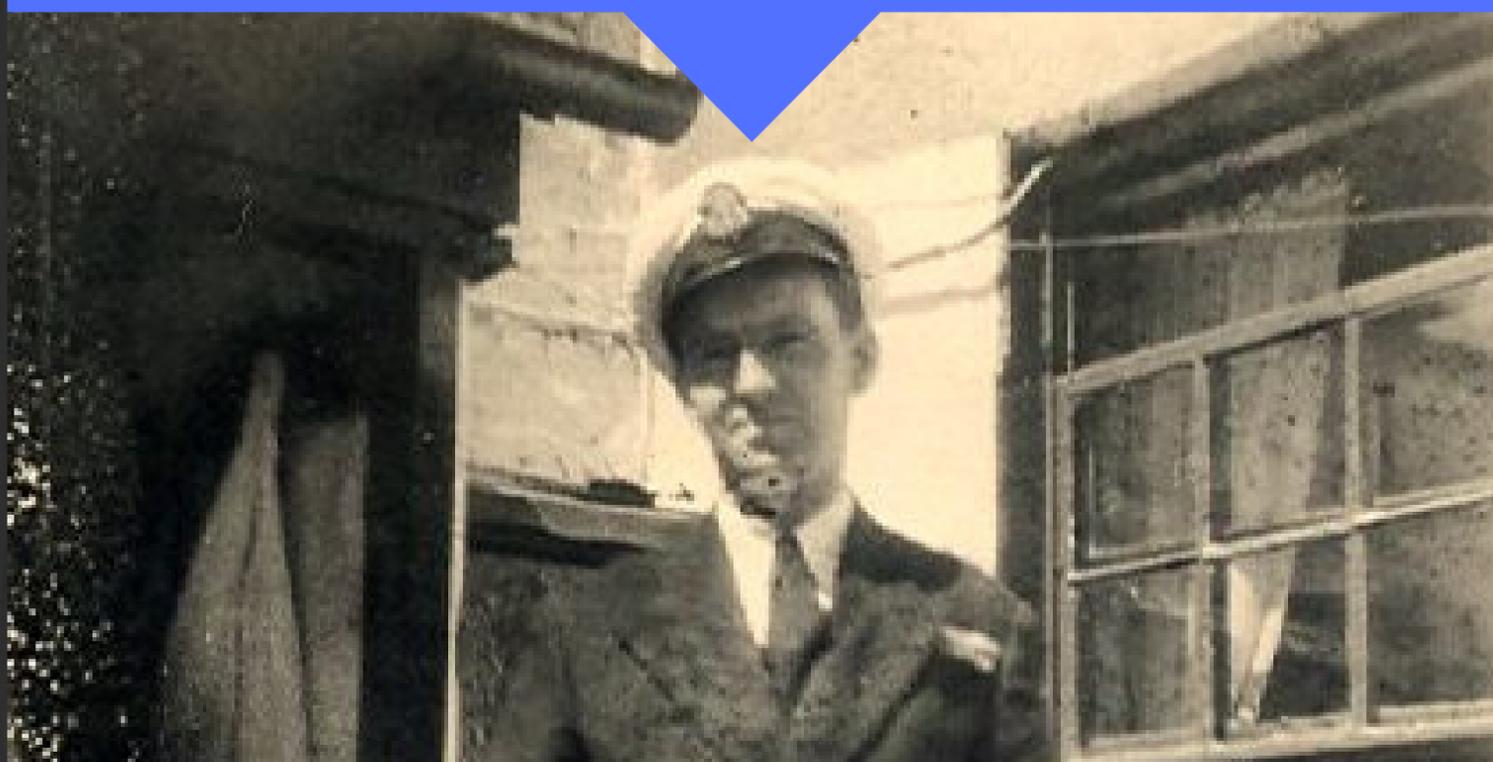
The convoy was intercepted by U-boats and the German Narvik class destroyers Z24, Z25 and Z26

"During the afternoon we were attacked by Junkers 88 dive bombers and Dornier torpedo bombers... TRINIDAD escaped except for a few bomb splinters in 'A' turret"

Herbert Soper - HMS Trinidad

The German destroyer Z26 was sunk by HMS Trinidad

Suddenly there was a terrific crash accompanied by a heat flash. Steel splinters sliced across the deck. The lights went out and the sea rushed in...There was a shout "Look out below...torpedoes!" Once again we dived to the deck and covered our heads with our hands. There was a tremendous explosion and the ship jumped like a wounded animal. Once more panic... The main explosion was in the Royal Marines mess deck and the compartments below.



Herbert Soper, HMS Trinidad



Trinidad emerged from the fog with a list and smoke pouring from a hole in her side.

Richard Nossiter, HMS Paynter



Bill Evans, Royal Marine,
HMS Trinidad

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTIES IN THE ECLIPSE AND TRINIDAD

The Board of Admiralty regrets that the following casualties occurred in H.M. Ships Eclipse and Trinidad during an engagement with the enemy on March 29, as previously announced:—

H.M.S. ECLIPSE

R.N. RATING
DIED OF WOUNDS

Robinson, J. G., Stkr. 1st Cl.

H.M.S. TRINIDAD

OFFICERS

KILLED

Temp. Elec. Lt. I. H. Ballance, R.N.V.R.; Mr. E. F. Coulton, Temp. W.O.O., R.N.; Mr. F. J. Gould, Cms. Gnr., R.N.; Lt. (E) R. E. Mason, R.N.; Prob. Temp. Sub-Lt. (E) L. J. Millar, R.N.V.R.; Midshipman N. E. T. Simmons, R.N.

R.N. RATINGS

KILLED

Bates, G., Eng. Rm. Art. 5th Cl.; Blenkey, G. W., A/P.O. Tel. (Ty.); Bond, W. W., Tel.; Bunclark, D., Stkr. 1st Cl.; Burrige, C. H., Boy 1st Cl.; Candy, D. W., Chf. Stkr.; Cox, I. J., Elec. Art. 1st Cl.; Crocker, H. G., Shipwright 2nd Cl.; Evans, A. W., Writer; Giltrow, R., Ldg. Stkr.; Haylor, G. E., Ldg. Smn.; Hearne, G., Ldg. Stkr.; Riggs, C. T., Supply C.P.O.; Winstone, W. T., Stkr. 1st Cl.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Williams, S., Stkr. 2nd Cl.

ROYAL MARINES

KILLED

Bennett, S. B., Mus.; Brewer, R. G. S., Mus.; Bonfield, L., Mus.; Collinge, W., Mus.; Davis, H. A., Bdmstr. 2; Field, A. E. W., Mus.; Glass, A. E., Mus.; Mason, C. H. B., Mus.; Sullivan, C. J. H., Mus.

NEW ZEALAND DIVN. RATING

KILLED

Dick, A. C., Ord. Smn.

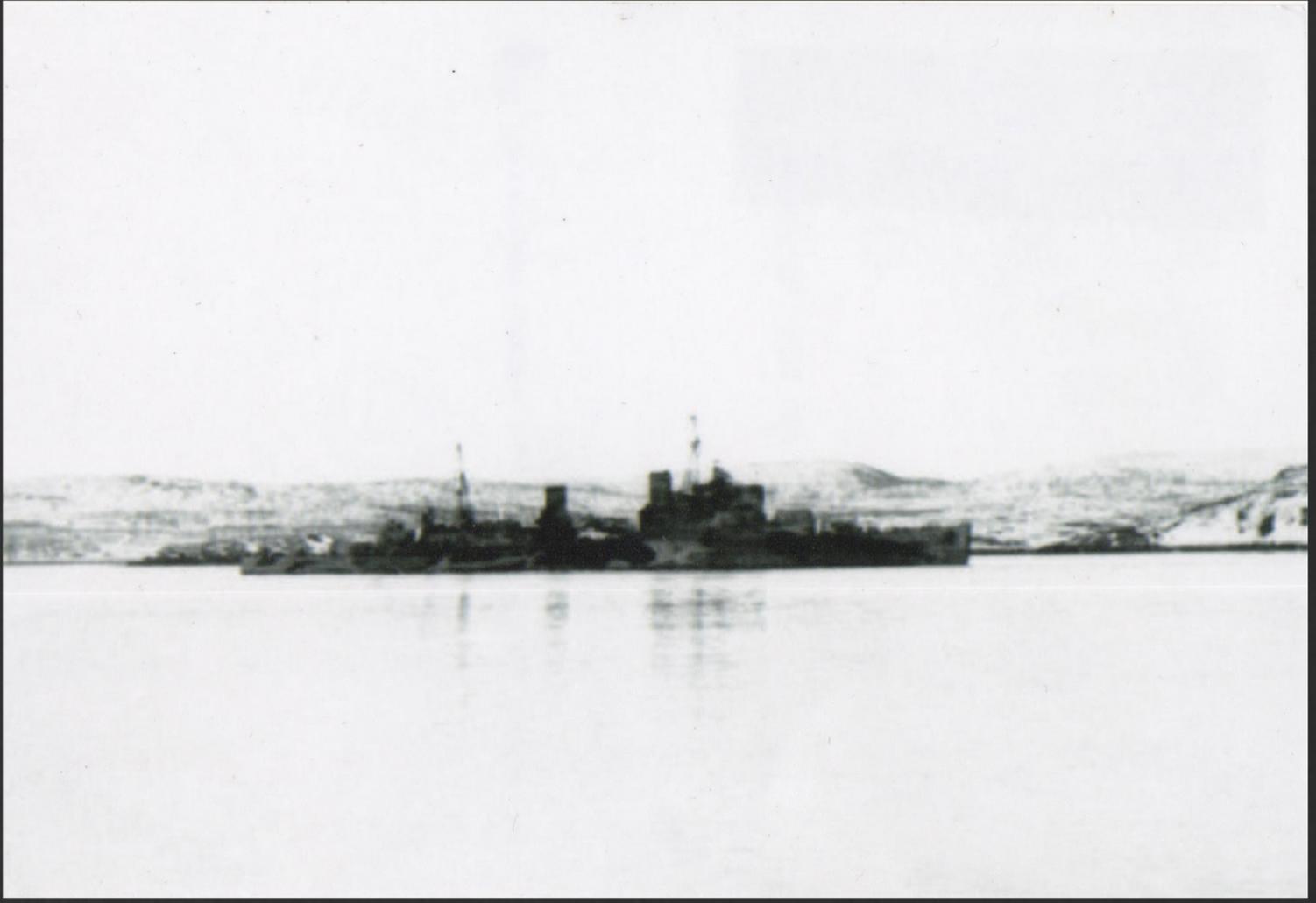
The Times Roll of honour April 1942.

A malfunction with a gyro mechanism (probably due to freezing) caused one of Trinidad's own torpedoes to arc and strike the ship. 32 of the crew were killed.



The two gentlemen on left are Bill Evans and William (Bill) Swann who both served on HMS TRINIDAD, where they lost many of their friends and colleagues. Both were bandsmen.

Trinidad didn't sink and limped into Murmansk for repairs.



Trinidad, undergoing repair in the Kola Inlet

May 1942, Trinidad leaves Kola Inlet

"We hadn't been at sea for more than a few hours when we were picked up by a shadowing enemy plane... We didn't have long to wait before the Junkers 88s arrived closely followed by the Dornier torpedo bombers."

Herbert Soper, HMS Trinidad

Decision to scuttle the ship

Attacked by over 20 Ju-88 bombers, Trinidad was struck and 63 men were lost, including 20 survivors from HMS Edinburgh.

Survivors were picked up by neighbouring vessels before Trinidad was torpedoed and sunk by HMS Matchless



Survivors on arrival at Greenock, including John Farrow, who was rescued by
HMS Forester



Convoys Remembered

Share your story

www.russianarcticconvoymuseum.org/

© Russian Arctic Convoy Project